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18 November 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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USE OF SOLAR HEATERS IN HOLGUIN DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 10 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Alexis Rojas Aguilera]

[Text]

● ON JULY 24, a battery of solar heaters was installed on the roof of Holguín province's children's hospital to meet the hot water needs of the hospital's intensive care ward, and it is working perfectly. The entire heating system was designed and built in this province and all those who were involved in the project are very happy with the results.

Engineer Miguel Álvarez Pino, a specialist of the Ministry of Communications in the province who designed the heating system, said, "The efficiency of the system has been demonstrated ever since it went into operation. In fact, the degree of heat absorption in these hot summer months has surpassed all estimates."

Álvarez Pino said that the system, similar to others built in the country, consists of two batteries of solar collectors, with seven units each which are linked together by a system of water conduits but can also work individually if necessary. Each group has its own 2000-liter thermal tank.

According to Álvarez Pino, the system is designed to ensure the supply of hot water to the intensive care section at all times, with a mean temperature of 45 degrees Celsius during the winter, and was the first to be installed in a Cuban hospital with an intensive care ward.

Regarding the system's many advantages, the designer said that it is a completely clean

form of energy which makes for a saving of around 60 000 kilowatt-hours and between 20 and 21 tons of fuel oil per year. He also drew attention to the low production and installation costs, considering that the overall expenditures on the prototype were between 7000 and 9000 pesos and that the large-scale production of these heaters would mean much lower costs.

Álvarez said that the devices used were the flat-plate collectors because they are the best adapted to Cuba's weather conditions and that the materials used in their construction are commonly used in the province's plants. These materials include galvanized tin plates, polystyrene, narrow-gauge copper tubing, aluminum sheeting, plain window glass, aluminum foil and black paint.

He explained that the batteries are lined up on an east-west orientation and at a 27-degree slant in order to take full advantage of solar radiation (direct or diffuse) all year round. Water circulation is based on the thermosyphon system, making the use of pumps unnecessary.

"We also introduced a new idea," Álvarez said. "We added two regulating tanks which allow us to use several water pressures, increasing and decreasing the strength as we desire."

Studies are being made with a view to installing solar heaters in one of Holguín's children's day-care centers and in the Vladimir Ilyich Lenin provincial hospital.

'LA NACION' VIEWS IMPACT ON FIGUEIREDO'S SPEECH AT UN

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 2 Oct 82 p 6

[Editorial: "The Brazilian President at the UN"]

[Text] The United Nations has held the opening meeting of the 37th session of its General Assembly, and Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo delivered the first in the customary series of speeches by UN delegations on the world situation.

Though it has always been informative to hear the representatives of widely differing countries, both in terms of size and their ideology, politics and economics, express their views on the international situation, their views this year are particularly important to Argentina.

In this regard, it is our duty to acknowledge that the chief executive of the largest country in South America has voiced authoritative support for our just protest over Britain's usurpation of the Malvinas, reaffirming the position that his country has maintained since 1833, the year of the illegal takeover, and asserting Argentina's legitimate sovereignty over the archipelago. The significance of his statement at the UN and under the current circumstances is obvious, both because it represents a show of Latin American solidarity and because he clearly noted the world's reluctance to find fault with the usurping power.

Indeed, the Brazilian president's speech did not stop there. With well-reasoned firmness and concern he broached the real issues of our day, noting the risks involved in misinterpretations of cooperation for development. Thus, we must agree with him that it is a mistake to take interdependence, which is an undeniable fact, as the basis for an attempt "to reconstruct hegemonic systems that are not at all conducive to the prosperity of either the industrialized or the developing world."

He vigorously yet calmly contended that the interests of the North and South are not contradictory. There is no crisis between the two. The basic problem, he accurately noted, is the deep-seated crisis of the international economic system itself. This is a profound truth, yet it should not, for example, lock us into an erratic approach or cause us to outline the world's problems within geographic coordinates or arbitrary categories.

President Figueiredo called for mutual respect, nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries and the pursuit of harmonious and fruitful coexistence above and beyond circumstantial disputes or differences. It behooves the UN General Assembly to heed this appeal so that it can overcome the climate of confrontation that has poisoned the organization's efforts for years now, a climate that is in open contradiction to and a complete negation of the spirit of its founding. Thus, our neighbor's president called on those who condemn the use of force to resolve conflicts to be consistent and true to their words, and he urged negotiations to avoid tensions in an organization whose goal is cooperation and prosperity.

One of his sound, noble suggestions was to regard the so-called "Third World" as a dynamic partner capable of assuming a prominent position in the world economy.

In conclusion, we will have to give intelligent, realistic consideration to his recommendation to establish a "truly solidary interdependence among Latin America, Africa and Asia," which, according to him, offers undreamed-of opportunities for economic collaboration.

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CSO: 3348/34

AGUIRRE LANARI'S PERFORMANCE AT UN ASSESSED

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 6 Oct 82 p 8

[Editorial: "An Analysis, With Omissions, at the UN"]

[Text] It is customary at the start of UN General Assembly sessions for the foreign ministers of the member countries to outline their views on the world situation and to offer criticism, including suggestions that they and their governments deem timely. The world forum must show impartiality and sincerity in this role, because their absence detracts from the mission that its founders assigned to the United Nations Organization.

There can be no doubts for Argentines that the most irritating thorn in our country's side at the moment is the UN's failure, so far, on the burning issue of the South Atlantic archipelagos and the urgent need for the system to acknowledge our nation's full sovereignty over them. We have already commented on this aspect of the issue. Thus, it now behooves us to assess another aspect of our minister's discourse, concerning the disappointing world panorama.

The Argentine foreign minister rightly called apartheid an aberrant system, but he failed to note (in fact he avoided mention of) the current administration's efforts to repeal it, to which end it must deal with a difficult domestic situation. The international community would be wise to encourage such an official policy, so that it comes to total fruition. We must not forget that the history of the Republic of South Africa provides no grounds for calling it a colonial settlement; it was colonized by European immigrants escaping religious wars of persecution. Mutatis mutandi, its situation is similar to that of the United States, Brazil and our country. This is not the case with neighboring Zimbabwe, which was settled by British businessmen and which has become a base for terrorists who received training there from North Korean military technicians and troops. We should recall that Argentina cut off relations with Pyongyang when it ascertained that the North Korean Embassy in Buenos Aires, along with Cuba, was an accomplice to subversion here. We should also bear in mind South Africa's vital importance to the strategic defense of the South Atlantic. In particular, we cannot forget its policy during the recent Falkland Islands crisis.

The Argentine foreign minister did not make substantial mention in his address of a problem that our nation's weapons were able to overcome but that continues to worry the civilized world and is becoming a renewed threat: the international terrorism backed by certain Arab governments, which of course did not support us at all on the issue of our Falkland Islands. One of them was Jordan. Given the opportunity, it recently massacred Palestinians for having attacked King Hussein and with its vote on the Security Council it made common cause with the United Kingdom in its usurpation.

In calling for an appropriate solution for the Palestinian question, the Argentine foreign minister did not propose feasible measures consistent with historic justice, nor did he remind the UN that the Palestinians invaded Lebanon, establishing themselves there to turn that small country into a base for attacking Israel's farm settlements, which they systematically bombed. He also failed to mention that Argentine subversives were their closest allies, training along with them for nihilist activity. In various places around the world Palestinian terrorism continues to make innocent civilians its victims. Have we forgotten the assassination of elected Lebanese President Bachir Gemayel, because this criminal act did not prompt the slightest official, public reaction from our country? Furthermore, we ought to remind ourselves of Tel Aviv's stand on the Falklands problem, which was very positive for our military and national interests.

Since we are noting unacceptable omissions in the Argentine minister's assessment of our contemporary world's troubled times, we might point out that his speech contained no mention of the Polish question, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the terribly bloody upheavals in Central America. Nor did he comment on the Cuban presence in Africa, which is currently the main factor hampering the prompt independence of Namibia, an issue that rightly concerns our Foreign Ministry. Have we stopped and thought that Angola and Mozambique, along with a Namibia strongly subjected to Marxist-Leninist influence, would become the overseers of the passage from the Indian to the Atlantic Ocean, the route along which oil is shipped and the course that the powerful Soviet fleet would take to station itself in our sphere? We should also mention the terrorist activities of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] in Namibia, a group outfitted with Soviet and East German arms and backed by Cuban forces. Are we acquiescing in the threat of Marxist, guerrilla hegemony in southern Africa, we who preach so eloquently on behalf of Latin American nationalist sentiments? Do we really believe that we are strengthening regional solidarity, which is so useful and legitimate for our homeland's irredentist cause? Isn't the United Nations the very forum in which to voice all concerns, both the ones that pertain to us because we were insulted by Great Britain's crafty refusal to acknowledge our rights, and the concerns that are more distant but that still relate to our national character of sharing the cause of all mankind? This is particularly so because Argentina is a nation open to all men and peoples of the world, and our representatives' duty is not to remain silent on major issues.

Diplomacy is an art, like politics, of which it is one facet. In it, a temporary tactic must not alter the fundamental principle. When foreign policy is based on principles, it is not steered off course by petty considerations and short-sighted assessments. Rather, it is strengthened by the authority that is born of such an approach. The prestige that Argentina enjoys in international forums was fostered by this kind of conduct and expression.

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EDITORIAL VOICES DISPLEASURE OVER UN VOTE ON PUERTO RICO

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 30 Sep 82 p 8

[Editorial: "UN Vote on Puerto Rico"]

[Text] The agenda of the 37th session of the United Nations General Assembly will not include the so-called Puerto Rico question this time. The vote was quite clear: 70 against, 30 for and 43 abstentions. The decision was made in the General Assembly, which Cuba turned to after its failure in the General Committee debate some days before.

There are several reasons why this vote was of unquestionable significance. In particular, we should ask ourselves why, on an essentially Latin American issue, the great majority of the region's countries voted no. The list bears mentioning: Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras. To them we must add Caribbean nations such as Jamaica, Santa Lucia, Antigua, the Bahamas and Barbados, while Peru, Trinidad-Tobago and Mexico abstained. In contrast, in addition to Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada, which have well-known pro-Soviet leanings, Venezuela and our country voted yes. We should mention that Ecuador was not in attendance. Both Spain and France abstained.

The stand taken by so many of our sister republics obviously reflects a legitimate collective sentiment of the Latin American region. Bringing the question of Puerto Rico before the UN would be a mistake, because a resolution of the issue must stem exclusively from a decision by its citizens. The island's people have had several opportunities to choose among the various alternatives. In any event, even if such opportunities had not existed, the OAS would seem to be a more appropriate forum. Even so, any country on the continent would be more legitimately entitled to call for a vote than Cuba. We cannot deny our surprise, and even our displeasure, in seeing our country make a decision that sets it against others in the region and allies it with pro-communist nations. We feel the same about Venezuela's vote.

For many permanently valid reasons it behooves Latin America to maintain a solidary front.

Under the current circumstances, Argentina, which has very justifiably conducted its foreign policy in line with the rest of our region's countries, certainly has no acceptable grounds, in our opinion, for deviating from what is unmistakably a consensus. The Foreign Ministry could have resorted to the less objectionable, though not very felicitous expedient of abstaining on the Puerto Rico issue, along with Mexico and France, two countries characterized by their independent stands on Central American problems.

We repeat: the ultimate decision must rest with the Puerto Ricans, and it is entirely inappropriate to impose a guardianship on them, regardless of what its political or ideological leanings might be. If democratic convictions are the real motivation, then the ideal path is freedom of expression and information, without being seduced by schemes that are often as erroneous as they are inopportune.

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CSO: 3348/34

CAMILION ANALYZES NATION'S APPROACH TO FALKLANDS ISSUE AT UN

Buenos Aires LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 18 Sep 82 p 2

[Article by Oscar Camilion: "The Malvinas Islands in the UN"]

[Text] The Argentine Foreign Ministry is rallying all its forces to secure an acceptable resolution of the Malvinas Islands issue at the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly. This endeavor is quite a bit more complex than it would at first seem. We might think that given the organization's record on the issue since the times of Dr Zavala Ortiz, the international community supports Argentina's stand on the islands. Those who feel, moreover, that as of 2 April the issue became even better known and, therefore, that we secured wider support, inevitably conclude that our next diplomatic step will be an easy one.

Things are far from that simple, though. On the contrary, we can safely say that this will be a difficult debate requiring major preparation. Its outcome is cause for concern, and we must not hope for too much.

Argentine officials have traveled to several key European countries to secure some degree of neutrality on their part in the upcoming vote. What we are trying to do is to get Great Britain's NATO allies to abstain. If this comes to pass, it will logically be easier to secure active support from the countries with weaker ties to the United Kingdom.

A preliminary estimate shows that there is only one group of countries that we can count on. In the upcoming vote Argentina will have the support of the socialist countries, without exception. This is the only group in the UN in which there is no danger of defections from the backing we need. San Martin Palace has no alternatives to this massive show of much-needed support. We should harbor no illusions either about the fact that this will prompt future diplomatic commitments that while perhaps not overriding will partially condition some aspects of our foreign policy. Those who believe that quid pro quo does not apply in diplomacy are making a big mistake. And if we feel that we can accept support today and completely ignore a request tomorrow, we are chancing the country's prestige and reputation. This applies especially to relations with countries like Cuba and Nicaragua, which have long lists of grievances and take offensive diplomatic positions in international organizations, with constant demands on nations that are diplomatically in debt to them.

Possible Resolution

Argentina must approach the international community prudently and realistically. We cannot ask for things on which we do not have certain majority support, which cannot go beyond the pronouncements already made in the world forum on the basis of Resolution 2065.

The country recently underwent a regrettable experience of collective blindness that led to a tragic defeat. The initial overconfidence that the government and other sectors fostered wound up depriving Argentine diplomacy of any opportunity. At the least, our diplomacy's total lack of perspective made it the prisoner of slogans, and the result was defeat.

We must bear this lesson in mind when we seek to make progress at the upcoming General Assembly. For the moment, it seems inevitable that the issue will be raised, all the more so when friendly countries take the initiative. From that point on, all of our efforts should aim at securing a favorable outcome, which means that our objective should be to convince as many countries as possible, not to make the noisiest segments of local public opinion happy.

Unofficial proposals are already circulating, suggesting that the government ask for things that are totally unattainable or that would be supported by very few countries. Such an approach would be catastrophic. It would leave future Argentine diplomacy in an even more difficult position. Thus, if the government must choose between being faulted by local groups for asking too little and having its claim rejected by a great many countries, then it must unquestionably choose the former. In other words, it must do exactly the opposite of what it did between 2 April and 12 June.

Argentina's goal at the moment is to keep the Malvinas issue alive on an international level, with as much support as possible. We have to bear in mind that the current diplomatic juncture is very poor for us, not only because of the military defeat in the islands but also because of the overall weakness of Argentina's position. Therefore, the goal is to avoid losing further ground and to gradually set the stage again for future gains.

The balance of power will shift at some point in the years to come, and Great Britain might not understand this, which could cause it to make mistakes. That will be less likely if Argentina is the one that makes the mistakes now by underestimating the difficulties it will have to face. Our country needs a long-range strategy for the Malvinas and has to prepare itself for ongoing efforts, which are incompatible with immaturity and impatience.

Taking Sides

London now has as much maneuvering room as it will ever have. Furthermore, the issue will still carry weight among British public opinion in 1982. The Foreign Office is actively at work on the diplomatic front and for the first time since 1965 will clash head on with our diplomacy. Up to now Britain has taken a quite passive stand on the Malvinas in the UN. This passivity stemmed from the ambivalence of the British Foreign Office, which did not rule out negotiations on the Malvinas in principle but which did not want to spur them on either. Hence, London did not actively lobby other countries.

This time, in contrast, not only will London lobby but it will openly and brazenly apply pressure. After underscoring in the military sphere that prestige is of great importance to them, the British will not hesitate to do likewise in the diplomatic arena.

This raises several possibilities. One is that the resolution offered by Argentina will be defeated or that it will pass by the narrowest of margins; another is that it will be amended so as to further British goals. We would imagine that Great Britain's approach will be that of the "major power" that has reestablished its prestige.

Therefore, we have to think that there will be a very strong trend towards abstention on the part of almost all Europe's Foreign Ministries; that in the Americas the Commonwealth countries will do likewise; that the Arab World will be characterized mostly by ambivalence and that, in general, the African and Asian countries will once again demonstrate that the declarations approved by the Nonaligned Movement are one thing and that the the votes cast in the General Assembly are another.

There are various rumors going around about Argentine diplomacy's speculation as to the outcome of a vote on a draft resolution. In general, the rumors are not upbeat. They acknowledge that Britain has considerable power to dissuade. Furthermore, major efforts have been and still are necessary to persuade, one by one, more than 90 countries, which now clearly realize that this is an important issue, not only for Argentina but for the United Kingdom as well.

When an issue is important, votes are not given away. Nations give careful thought to them, especially when the affected party has the ability to inflict damage. The Argentine Government's incredible misinformation on Britain's alleged lack of military might (the toothless lion and such things) was a blunder that not even tiny, barely developed countries make. Moreover, we must bear in mind the great political and economic importance of the Commonwealth. More than 40 nations think twice before taking sides against a Foreign Office that can do many favors.

A major group like the Arab countries tends at times to liken Argentina's action on 2 April to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands. We commented in this column on King Hussein of Jordan's unexpected reference to the self-determination of the kelpers, comparing it to that of the Palestinians.

The fact of the matter is that the prospects in the General Assembly are complex. There is the specific possibility that a major group of countries that always backed Argentina on the Malvinas issue will not do so this time. There might be a great many abstentions. We find it hard to believe that Argentina will not get a clear-cut majority, but we ought to stop and think now about the significance of the drop in support that many are predicting. If the drop is sizable, we could hardly conclude that Argentina's legal claim was strengthened in the eyes of the world community by the process that began on 2 April and that dissipated so many possibilities for negotiations.

In this regard, it is not easy to understand the "post mortem" debate that Dr Costa Mendez has been having with Gen Alexander Haig. It is not easy either to tell whether the publication of these documents was an attempt to do the former foreign minister a promotional favor. Anyone who reads the text objectively will have a great deal of trouble understanding why it was not accepted. As it would be put in a chess problem, "white to play and mate in three moves." Both in Haig's text and in the yet more favorable proposals of President Belaunde Terry and Ambassador Perez de Cuellar, Argentina inexorably won on the Malvinas issue, although, of course, over a period of time that would presumably have extended beyond General Galtieri's and his minister's term of office.

I am not fond of arguing about the past, but I think that the repeated attempts to justify the unjustifiable are unacceptable. The people responsible for one of the biggest failures in Argentine history should at least remain discreetly silent. It is going too far to continue abusing the intelligence of the Argentine people or, as was said of Catiline, their patience.

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CALDERON INTERVIEWED ON UNITY COALITION

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20, 21 Sep 82

/Report Interview with Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, candidate of the Unity coalition party in last February's presidential elections, by Ricardo Lizano; date and place not specified

/Part I, 20 Sep 82 p 1B

/Text The Unity coalition will be consolidated in Costa Rica as a social Christian party which will be a strong democratic alternative to the social democratic National Liberation Party (PLN)--the party now in power--, said the former presidential candidate of the Unity group, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier. At the same time, he was optimistic about the situation in Central America, where, according to him, support for democracy is increasing, except in Nicaragua, which is leaning toward Marxism. Nevertheless, he believes that coexistence between the Nicaraguan Government and the rest of the nations is viable, provided that they all dialogue and respect the principle of nonintervention.

At 33 years of age, Calderon is one of the youngest aspirants to the presidency Costa Rica has ever had, having faced in last February's elections Luis Alberto Monge, the PLN candidate who today is president of Costa Rica.

Calderon was the candidate of the Unity party, an alliance of Calderonist Republicans, Popular Unity, Democratic Renewal and Christian Democrats, and he received slightly more than 300,000 votes, almost 35 percent of the entire ballot. Most of these movements have traditionally taken political positions opposed to the PLN, what that party is in power. In 1978 they organized the Unity party and elected Rodrigo Carazo Odio to the presidency.

However, these sectors have been criticized in various circles for not having succeeded in building once and for all a great, strong party which might present an alternative to the social democracy espoused by the PLN.

Calderon is convinced that this time things will be different and that just such a movement will be consolidated. To that end he announced that the party will keep the same name and the same banner it raised in last February's election campaign (one red and one blue band).

In thus expressing himself, Calderon is not only optimistic as to the political future awaiting him, but he gave little importance to the argument advanced by some sectors to the effect that the two majority political parties have outlived their usefulness.

"I believe," he said, "that our political model is not exhausted; I believe that our people will continue to have faith in the two majority parties." In this regard he pointed out that the aforementioned groups--PLN and Unity--together received 94 percent of the vote in 1978 and 92 percent in 1982. In addition he emphasized: "I think there is a clearly-defined tendency on the part of the Costa Rican citizen toward a strong two-party system for the country, to put his trust in the two biggest movements." He carries this idea even further, since he is convinced that the Costa Rican voters went to the last elections in the midst of the worst economic crisis the country has ever had. If this happened under those conditions, their participation in elections would be even better under normal conditions, and in this regard he gave as an example the substantial electoral loss suffered by the Costa Rican Left in that election.

Social Christian Philosophy

The World Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Democratic Organization of the Americas (ODCA) are organized on the international level, and Calderon admitted that the Unity party has important links to them.

However, this does not mean that they are conditioned in any way, he said--since each country represents a particular, distinct situation. "Each nation has its own individual situation; for that reason we speak of our native solutions, in the Costa Rican style--, based on Social Christian thought but adapted to the feelings and reality of the Costa Rican people."

In addition, Calderon expressed the opinion that the administration of his father, Dr Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, who was president from 1940 to 1944, was the first Social Christian government in Costa Rica. "It was a government," he emphasized, "which put Social Christian ideas into practice and on the basis of those ideas promulgated the constitutional reform that created a chapter of social guarantees."

He said there is a slight difference, and explained that Social Christian thought represents a philosophy based on the social doctrine of the church, while Christian Democracy is the political instrument with which to carry those ideas forward.

Discontent With Monge Administration

Having thus defined the Costa Rican political spectrum, Calderon believes that at present there is much discontent with the administration of President Monge, and that Unity will capitalize on this triumphantly in the 1986 elections. He expressed the opinion that the PLN created a lot of expectations in the Costa Rican people with its leaders' remarks to the citizens in each community and with its propaganda, among which Calderon emphasized the negative aspect of the slogan of "a new dawn" used by that group.

They wanted to give the people to understand that they were going to bed under one government and would awaken under another, which did not happen, he explained. However, his criticism of Luis Alberto Monge's administration is not violent, as some might wish and perhaps others hope.

Calderon asserted that that is part of a civilized position in a democratic country, and in that respect he emphasized that his party's position has been one of serious opposition.

He emphasized in that regard that President Monge has been given time to govern, and he said that his most serious differences with the president have been in the area of the exchange policy, since the present administration approved a multiple exchange system for the Costa Rican monetary unit, the colon.

In that respect he said that Unity has opposed the double exchange rate "since in our opinion we are discouraging exports, which are basic and necessary if we are to come out of this crisis."

He also added that his party has been especially concerned by the fact that the government expects, by means of taxes, to obtain additional income to reduce the fiscal deficit. "If that sacrifice," he said, "that all Costa Ricans are going to make, would really serve as a solution to our crisis, we would gladly pay our share."

However, he warned that "on the one hand they expect to create an income of 5 billion colons (\$125 million), and on the other hand, the national budget for the coming year is being increased by almost 22 billion colons (\$550 million), which in itself would create a deficit, and he expressed the opinion that it is necessary to create a national awareness "to achieve a substantial reduction." Tomorrow Calderon Fournier will discuss the subject of a constituent assembly, analyze the situation in Central America and comment on the possibilities of his running for office again.

/Part II, 21 Sep 82 pp 1B, 11B/

/Text/ In the second part of his interview with LA NACION, the former presidential candidate of the Unity party, Rafael Angel Calderon, expressed his opposition to the calling of a constituent assembly, said that with the exception of Nicaragua, the situation in Central America is favorable to democracy and stated that he felt it was premature to talk about candidacies.

Several sectors of the Costa Rican political spectrum have been saying for several years that a national constituent assembly should be called to reform the present political constitution.

This suggestion has already been brought to the Legislative Assembly, where there is a proposal which was recently "revived" by a legislator of the "liberation" faction.

Many voices have been raised in opposition to that initiative for several reasons.

Groups which oppose the PLN accuse former president Daniel Oduber of being behind the constituent assembly in the hope of getting some reform approved which will permit him to be a presidential candidate again.

Within the PLN, President Monge himself has said that this is not the opportune time to call an assembly of that kind, since he believes that such a call must be the result of a national consensus. Unity has usually taken a position against the constituent assembly, also.

Calderon asserted that that position is still the same, although he warned that "I would not be afraid of a constituent assembly if there were a guarantee that a two-thirds vote would be required to approve the new constitution."

He said that for this principle to be maintained, "the majority parties could also have a committee, and we are willing to form one, to study the reforms required by our Great Charter and to make them as partial reforms." (In Costa Rica the constitution may be partially reformed by vote of no less than two thirds of Congress, and a general reform may be made only by a constituent assembly called by a like number of votes).

He continued to emphasize that position, since in his judgment, due to the strong two-party system in Costa Rica at the present time, it would not be fair that one of the majority parties should "not have a chance to contribute to the approval of the basic charter."

Some Costa Rican political circles are saying that former president Oduber has been "knocking at the doors" of Calderon's following to try to find some support in this matter of the constituent assembly.

However, Calderon asserted that that is not true and pointed out that it has been perhaps more than a year since he has met with Oduber.

Central America

Questioned about the viability of Social Christian thought in Central America, the former candidate said he is convinced that if that philosophy is possible in a country like Costa Rica, then it would be much more so in other countries which have greater social difficulties.

Going into the situation on the Isthmus, he said he is optimistic about the possibilities of achieving total peace. In that regard he said that there is a democratic government in Honduras; in Guatemala the new administration has raised the banner of free elections; El Salvador held free elections for a constituent assembly after the "extraordinary work of Napoleon Duarte" and there are guarantees that in 1984 the Panamanian people will vote directly for their president.

"Nicaragua," he added, "is slowly turning to Marxism and is the only country where there is no possibility of free elections."

"Now then," he said, "I believe that we other Central American countries can coexist peacefully with Nicaragua, even though it has a Marxist government." In Calderon's view, this can be achieved "if Nicaragua and of course the island of Cuba do not intervene at all in the other countries' internal affairs."

Asked his opinion about how the Costa Rican Government had handled the recent problems between that country and Nicaragua, Calderon said he believed that the dialogue between the two should be stepped up.

In that regard he said that "Costa Rica has a very good friend in the government of Mexico, which is also very friendly to Nicaragua, and it can request Mexico's assistance in getting that dialogue started."

When he was reminded that if this were done, and if his idea should prosper, Costa Rica's sovereignty would be affected, Calderon said that it was not a question of negotiating through Mexico. Then he explained that "when there are two friends who are having problems and they have a third, mutual friend, one of them can ask that third friend to help bring them together to settle their problems."

However, he did say that the government had done well to protest when there were violations of Costa Rican rights.

He mentioned Foreign Minister Fernando Volio, but he emphasized the need to increase the dialogue so that Nicaragua will know that there will be no intervention in its affairs from here and that it may give the same assurances.

He also felt it necessary that there should be "very high level talks between the United States and the Soviet Union," and asserted that Costa Rica's security depends on international treaties.

In spite of that, Calderon--who was foreign minister in the Carazo government--did not consider it probable that a confrontation would take place in the Isthmus similar to the one that occurred in Southeast Asia, and in this respect he said he did not believe in the so-called "Vietnamization of Central America."

Opposition Leader?

Calderon Fournier admitted that his participation in Costa Rican politics has been determined largely by the fact that he is the son of Dr. Calderon Guardia (one of the most popular politicians Costa Rica has ever had). At present he is president of the Unity party, "the most important position in the most important party opposed to the government" according to his own statement. He said this very diplomatically when he was asked if he

considered himself the leader of the Costa Rican opposition. He emphasized that he had been working collegially in the coalition, making it representative of the various sectors that compose it.

However, he admitted that "there has to be someone who, in the end, makes the most important decisions, and thanks to the trust of my companions I have been the one moving the party toward these decisions."

In accordance with the foregoing, he confirmed that the actions of the parliamentary faction "reflects our thinking," and he said he was very satisfied with the work done by his party's legislators.

In spite of the job he has undertaken, Calderon Fournier admitted that his leadership is not like his father's. "I was able to contribute personally with a series of actions early on, which helped me achieve a natural fortitude in national politics," he said.

However, further on, he added that "it will be many, many years before there is another person who has the charisma, the personal magnetism and the strength of leadership that my father had."

Obviously he is still a politician, very young, and that, just as it can be a factor in his favor, can also endanger him. Everything depends on the fortunes of his party and on his eventual candidacy.

With respect to the first point, Calderon said he is in favor of the advancement of political funds by the state, since "I would not have been able to run if that aid were not available." He explained that he had many financial problems at the beginning of the last campaign, and he added that with political campaign funds advanced by the state "the parties are independent of the country's strong economic sectors."

With regard to his eventually running again, he said only that it was premature to talk about that, since he is in the process of consolidating the party. "I will answer that in 2 years," he emphasized.

8735


CSO: 3248/108

U.S. POLICIES FOR CENTRAL AMERICA SCORED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 10 Oct 82 p 9

[Article by Joaquin Rivery: "The Regionalization of War in Central America is Doomed to Failure"]

[Text]



THE DESIRE for world domination by the U.S. government has led the Reagan administration to plunge into a dangerous venture for spreading war all over Central America, regardless of the sinister consequences this may have.

For some time there have been denunciations of U.S. efforts to try to stop revolution in the region through the use of the armies of the oppressive Central American regimes with large-scale military backing from the Pentagon.

The blind aggressive policy of Reagan and his hatred for the Sandinista Revolution and the patriots in El Salvador and Guatemala, and for the other peoples of Central America, have led him to take measures which jeopardize regional peace.

Any review of events in El Salvador clearly shows that without the support of the United States, the bloodthirsty sellout regime in that small nation would have been overthrown long ago. With its dollars and weapons the United States artificially keeps alive a dictatorship whose death sentence was issued by its own people a long time ago.

In order to prevent the downfall of the regime and the victory of the guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, Reagan has dragged the Honduran army into the war. The Honduran military has participated in joint operations with their Salvadoran counterparts and their only achievement has been the murder of hundreds of Salvadoran civilians.

Another indication of this regionalization of the conflict is the clear protection which the reactionary Honduran military gives the Somo-cista bands. From bases in Honduras along the border with Nicaragua, these bands stage constant raids on the homeland of Sandino, where they commit all kinds of outrages and murders as part of a full-blown terrorist campaign.

The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua has repeatedly expressed its desire for talks with Honduran officials on the situation along the border. But the Honduran regime, which is totally involved in the U.S. efforts to hound the Sandinista Revolution, has shown no interest in finding a solution.

The regime has also leased — or should we say sold? — Honduran territory to set up military bases along the border with Nicaragua and is modernizing its airports for use by U.S. military planes.

If the United States is spending money on those airports, it is because it plans to use them. Against whom?

On August 31, Colonel Leónidas Torres Arias, former chief of Honduran military intelligence and of police, held a press conference in Mexico in which he said that armed forces commander General Gustavo Alvarez Martínez wants to lead the country to internal destruction and a war with its neighbors. Torres said Alvarez has "plans for the physical extermination of all opposition and commitments to undertake an international military adventure of unpredictable consequences for the homeland."

These "commitments" are undoubtedly with the United States. It is no accident that after a meeting in Washington with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Córdova, Reagan said, "Honduras can count on us."

We must also point out that Honduras, the poorest country in Central America, is spending huge sums to purchase military equipment while holding joint military maneuvers with the United States, which has stationed hundreds of advisers in the country to train Honduran troops. Honduran military personnel are also trained at U.S. schools in the Panama Canal.

The attacks on Nicaragua and El Salvador, the arms buildup in Honduras, the creation of the so-called Central American Democratic Community — consisting of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica — and the preparations for direct U.S. intervention in the region all show that the first steps towards a regional war have been taken.

However, the peoples of Central America are determined to resist and defeat the U.S. plans. The imperialists won't have an easy time of it and, as has been repeatedly noted, Central America may well become a huge Vietnam that would enjoy the solidarity of peoples all over the hemisphere and the world.

Plans for spreading war all over Central America are doomed to failure. The only results will be the prolongation of the fighting, more bloodshed for the peoples of Central America and further jeopardy to world peace.

NEW PAPER MILL IN SANCTI SPIRITUS DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 10 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Fernando Davalos]

[Text]

Features of the paper mill

- THE MILL, a priority project of the Young Communist League, will be supplied with bagasse from the Uruguay sugar mill, located nearby. It is equipped to turn out as much as 40 percent of its production in ream form.
- The mill covers an area of 583 000 square meters, of which around 6700 will be roofed. The weight of the equipment is estimated at 12 000 tons and that of the metal structures at 6600. Around 92 000 cubic meters of reinforced concrete are being used in the project.
- The so-called black water waste, which in the past caused public uproar when it was spilled into ditches or rivers, will be recovered in this mill. It will be concentrated and turned into steam through a heating process, in order to obtain sodium sulfate, used in the manufacturing of wood pulp.



CUBA'S LARGEST paper mill, located near Jatibonico, Sancti Spiritus province, began test runs of its water processing plant as part of the first stage of its start-up program. It is expected that by the beginning of next year the mill will be turning out 120 tons of paper per day (about 60 percent of its total capacity).

The mill will be operated by a staff of some 1200 workers. It is the first of its type to use

sugarcane bagasse for 80 percent of its raw material (some 700 tons per day). The remaining 20 percent is coniferous pulp.

The paper produced by the mill will be used for high-speed, high-quality offset printing of books and magazines.

The technical design of the new mill, also known as the Jatibonico Bond Paper Mill, was

provided by the French firm Creusot-Loire and is based on the Cuban experience in producing paper from sugarcane bagasse, which has become a very common system in Cuba.

The use of bagasse as the main raw material offers great opportunities to Cuba and other sugar-producing countries to make much more efficient use of this raw material, most widely used as fuel in sugar mills.

The mill's potential yearly output at full production capacity is 60 000 tons of white paper of various qualities, with weights ranging from 40 grams to 120 grams per square meter.

The other paper mills in Cuba are using coniferous wood pulp for 50 to 60 percent of their raw materials (involving large expenditures in foreign exchange) mixed with bagasse or waste paper.

In the future, these mills will be able to increase the percentage of bagasse in their mixtures with the introduction of bleached pulp produced by the new mill, thus cutting down on the use of imported wood pulp.

TOTAL COST OF 180 MILLION PESOS

The new mill's overall cost runs to around 180 million pesos, 40 percent for imported components including equipment and general

technical assistance provided by the French firm. According to the contract, payment for equipment and advisory services will be made in products from the new mill. Between 30 and 40 percent of the yearly output will be dedicated to meet these payments.

This type of negotiation, known as a compensatory contract, is the most important ever made between Cuba and suppliers abroad and constitutes a valuable experience for both, those in charge of building the mill and those who will run it.

The mill will be classified as a national enterprise of the Ministry of Basic Industry.

The future administrative staff and workers of the mill have been contributing to the construction project for over two years, from the casting of the foundation and the installation of the equipment. They are now engaged in start-up operations and are completely familiarized with the mill's complex technology.

The day that the mill was about to start its first test runs, the Party organizing secretary in Jatibonico municipality said, "You can't tell the difference between construction workers and factory workers here. They are all working shoulder to shoulder and every time there is a disagreement about something, the result of the discussion is always positive for the mill."

CSO: 3200/11

CEMA MEETING ON WATER CONSERVATION NOTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 10 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Fernando Davalos]

[Text]

● THE 29TH meeting of the Conference of Leaders of Water Conservation Agencies of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, held in Havana, discussed priority cooperation of members with Vietnam, Mongolia and Cuba in the development of science and technology related to this field.

In regard to Cuba, the stipulations of the bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary have been implemented and coordination is under way in relation to the agreement with the German Democratic Republic.

Engineer Mercedes Arellano, technical director of the Institute of Water Conservation and head of the Cuban delegation to the 29th meeting, spoke on the subject and outlined the objectives required in line with our development. These objectives include the optimum use of reservoirs, automation of the hydrological data bank, development of automated systems of water management and the optimum use of hydrological networks.

Subprogram 06, which has to do with the speedy development of science and technology in our country, is aimed at determining hydraulic resources of our main basins and, diverting urban surplus water to agriculture.

The heads of the delegations also visited the water purification plant on the Quibú River and the site of a future installation at Marfa del Carmen near the Manuel Martínez Prieto Sugar Mill, both in Havana province. The latter will be used to irrigate canefields.

Both stations use Cuban tropical technology, which aroused the interest of visitors from countries where other technology is used, some of which is more complex because of different weather conditions.

CSO: 3200/11

CATTLE CENTER BUILT BY INTERNATIONALISTS IN LAOS

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 10 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Fernando Davalos]

[Text]

● INTERNATIONALIST construction workers from Cuba, members of the Lao-Cuba Friendship Brigade, recently concluded a cattle-breeding center in Nabong, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The center has a capacity of 330 animals of different ages and stages of growth.

The site is 30 kilometers from Vientiane, the capital of Lao, and it covers an area of 256 hectares of fertile flatland.

The center donated by Cuba contains 14 buildings, among them automated milking sheds, a weaning section, a laboratory, tick baths, a shaded section and others.

This project was carried out by 40 Cuban internationalists from the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises (UNECA) — many of whom were recently decorated in Havana by the Lao government — and workers from the sister nation, among them a number of women.

The center covers all stages of breeding and dairy production. Some 120 cows are expected to be milked when it is functioning. Among the animals donated by Cuba are ten bulls.

UNECA said the center will soon be fully operational, following installation of the necessary equipment.

CSO: 3200/11

PENA GOMEZ WARNS OF GOVERNMENT JOB SCARCITY

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 9 Oct 82 p 1

/Text/ Yesterday Dr. Jose Francisco Pena Gomez warned the militant members of the PDR who are pressuring the government to find them jobs, that public administration does not allow the creation of new jobs unless ones now filled are eliminated.

The general secretary of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PDR) and representative of the National District pointed out that "there are many friends in our party" who have not forgotten the offenses of the internal struggle and are asking for the jobs held by other militant PDR members.

Pena Gomez stated that this situation has provoked "the hateful cancellations" which, according to his statements, are due not so much to the initiative of high government officials, but to the personal negotiations of those interested.

In a speech delivered over Tribuna Democratica, the PRD radio station, the political leader and mayor of Santo Domingo stated that the militant members of the official party must understand that "we live in the middle of a world crisis that affects, although to different degrees, the rich countries as well as the poor ones, the capitalist countries and the communist ones".

Pena Gomez dedicated a large part of his speech to explaining the difficulties that in his judgement the government of President Rafael Jorge Blanco faces in taking care of the demands for employment made by the militant members of the PDR.

The general secretary of the PDR said that "to believe that misery, poverty and unemployment are phenomena exclusive to the Dominican Republic is a grave error, because these problems exist in all the countries of the world".

"The crisis should not be a reason for discouragement, inaction and inertia. We must all work to overcome the crisis or navigate through its opposing currents and take our country to a safe shore," added Pena Gomez.

He pointed out that the PDR leaders "have to explain the crisis to the people and make them understand that in order for unemployment to decrease, it is necessary that we work hard to train specialized workers".

Pena Gomez said that it is of "foremost importance" to establish trade schools in the country and in the city to provide thousands of Dominicans with knowledge and skills that would help them qualify more easily for jobs in this country or abroad or turn them without difficulty into skilled laborers.

"The Government of National Concentration is ready to promote the small businesses, but to be deserving of loans from the institutions that will carry out the development of microbusinesses, it is first necessary to acquire the appropriate skills, because no institution will lend money to someone who cannot do anything," explained Pena Gomez.

He said that the country's past administrations have not prepared the people to earn their living in non-government jobs, and this explains why "the majority of people in our country hope to get government jobs".

Pena Gonez stated that the current unemployment in the Dominican Republic has driven to desperation many people who think that the government is in a position to create "overnight" new sources of jobs in the public sector.

He said that the administration of President Jorge Blanco cannot create new jobs because, as he stated, "with the excessive number of positions created during the last few years to satisfy growing demand for jobs, the public sector saturated its capacity for making payments".

"It is incredible that no new decentralized enterprises have been created in the country and that the majority of Dominicans think that we can continue living off the despised legacy of Trujillo, that is to say, off the public administration, the Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises, State Sugar Council, the National Lottery and the insolvent city councils," the political leader pointed out.

He said that the enterprises CORDE /Dominican Corporation of State Enterprises/ and CEA /State Sugar Council/ cannot handle any more jobs, and he added that the deficit of the decentralized enterprises is of hundreds of millions of pesos and "the same can be said of the public administration".

Pena Gomez added that the government intends to improve the job situation but without increasing the number of public employees because, he said, this would be equivalent to increasing the fiscal deficit and keeping production at a standstill.

"Public administration has turned into a heavy, inefficient piece of machinery," said the general secretary of the official party and representative of the National District.

9907

CSO: 3248/105

BRIEFS

RICE SHORTAGE--The secretary of agriculture announced yesterday that the government is encouraging the cultivation of 17 different food products so that, confronting a possible shortage of rice amounting to 800,000 quintals during the first 4 months of the coming year, the situation can be handled without having to import this cereal. Mr Rafael Angel Suarez stated that as of this moment, the decision not to import food that can be grown in the country, especially rice, is "irrevocable". In a statement given yesterday at the National Palace the official maintained that the country is not in a position to import rice when there are other staples of high nutritional value that can be produced in sufficient quantities to satisfy domestic consumption. /Article by Maximo Manuel Perez/ /Excerpt/ /Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 10 Oct 82 p 1/ 9907

WEAPONS CONFISCATED AT AIRPORT--Santiago--The chief of police ordered an investigation concerning the confiscation of various firearms from two men by officials at the Puerto Plata international airport. This announcement was made yesterday by Col Jose Fernando Gonzalez Sanchez, chief of the North regional police command in Santiago. The official said that as part of the investigation the two men detained at Puerto Plata airport terminal, Juan Munoz and Manuel Esteban Grullon, were transferred to the national police headquarters in Santo Domingo. Col Gonzalez Sanchez stated that they are trying to determine whether some of the customs inspectors acted in complicity with the detained men to bring arms into the country. He pointed out that if this is the case, those persons responsible will be brought to justice along with Munoz and Grullon. Sunday the police announced the confiscation of the pistols, six revolvers, two shotguns and three ammunition boxes. Also the sum of \$16,385 and 540 Dominican pesos was taken from the two detained men. Col Gonzalez Sanchez urged the customs officials to inspect carefully the luggage of travelers in order to gain more control over the persons who "come in and out" of the country. When the two travelers were searched at the Puerto Plata airport customs office nothing compromising was found on them. Nevertheless the head of the Drugs and Narcotics Department assigned to the airport thought the two Dominicans acted somewhat suspiciously and asked them to come into his office. It was there, after an exhaustive investigation of the luggage, that the arms which had been hidden inside the lining, were found. At the time they were taken prisoner, the smugglers did not say from whom they bought the arms or how they would be used. /Article by Domingo Saint Hilaire Jr/ /Text/ /Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 12 Oct 82 p 5/ 9907

DETAILS OF NEW INVESTMENT PLAN DISCUSSED

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 20 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] In tandem with the implementation of an overall plan of action for boosting private investment in the overseas departments, the steps taken in interministerial committee on 22 July are aimed at increasing the incentive effect of investment aids by expanding their scope to new sectors, while making the plan of action clearer and more selective and minimizing the possibilities of tax evasion. These measures involve:

The Equipment Subsidy

In addition to eliminating the ceiling, it was decided to extend the area of subsidy implementation in consistent fashion. An interministerial decree will fix the threshold beyond which a relevant plan will be examined by the Central Approval Commission.

Furthermore, the requirements for granting the subsidy to tourism activities stipulate that the equipment must involve a minimum investment of Fr 200,000 and create at least five jobs.

The Job Subsidy

The thresholds for this subsidy's scope will be coordinated with those for the equipment subsidy. Expansion of the area in which this subsidy will be implemented involves in particular the selling of equipment for renewable source energy production and of swimming, sports and tourist equipment.

Rearrangement of the Tax Plan

Within the framework of the finance law for 1983, the following modifications will be made to the present plan of action:

--The tax deduction planned for 50 percent will go up to 100 percent and there will be full entitlement to that deduction for cash subscriptions in the capital by the DOM [overseas departments] Regional Development Companies.

Certain activities that are of special importance for the development of the DOM or that require especially sizable investment will, after approval given

by the budget minister and on the advice of the Central Approval Commission, be eligible for a 100-percent tax deduction on all contributions made in cash.

--For investment in eligible sectors, individuals can get the tax deduction provided by Article 79 of the Finance Law of 1980.

In the terms specified on 22 July, the right to a 50-percent tax deduction will be extended to capital subscriptions in financial companies; to activities for producing new energy meant for resale; to subscriptions for rated hotel-related activities (in cases in which investments are of special importance for the DOM or would be of especially sizable amounts the deduction can be brought up to 100 percent of subscriptions); and to subscriptions for activities carried out under coownership or comparable regulations.

In addition, the area in which 50-percent tax deduction applies will from now on extend to most tourism activities on the condition that those activities have previously obtained equipment and job subsidies, that they are investing a minimum of Fr 200,000 and that they are creating a minimum of five jobs.

The 10-year tax exemption regulations for companies is being renewed for companies eligible for the system of tax and financial incentives. Coordination among the levels of responsibility comes into play because delegated authority has been granted to the directors of the DOM Fiscal Services for projects in which investment is less than Fr 4 million.

9631

CSO: 3219/4

ARIANE SPACE PROJECT CONTINUES, ELA-3 NOTED

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 16 Sep 82 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Ariane L-5 failure has not jeopardized the Guyana Space Center's program and prospects for expansion--an expansion that for the next few years will be dominated by the construction, currently in progress, of the new ELA-2 launching pad.

The Kourou Guyana Space Center (CSG) will see its launch capability increase twofold at the beginning of 1985 with the opening of a second launching pad currently under construction.

The new unit, called ELA-2 (Ariane-2 Launch Unit), will make it possible to have the number of space launches, 4-5 a year at present, rise to 8 or 10 a year. ELA-2, larger than the current ELA-1 launching pad, will be built with dimensions to accommodate the Ariane-4 version of the European rocket; Ariane-4 will be capable of putting 4,300-kilo loads into orbit compared to 1,700-kilo loads with the present Ariane-1 version. The first test launch for the Ariane-4 is planned for the second half of 1985.

ELA-2 has a very different design from that of ELA-1. On the latter, the rocket is set up right on the launching pad of a movable tower where the operations of assembling the stages together, electrical checks, mounting satellites on the rocket and so forth are carried out. That tower is then moved 60 meters away at launch time. ELA-2 will be composed of two separate units: the preparation area where all the above-mentioned operations will be carried out, and the launch area made up of the actual launching pad with a fixed mast used for filling the tanks and containing a portion of the control instruments in its concrete foundation. The rocket and the mast will be covered with a 3,000-ton movable gantry 90 meters high that will be moved 80 meters away at launch time.

Only the filling tanks and the actual launch will be carried out in this second area, which will allow for preparation of a second rocket while the first is still on the launching pad and therefore make it possible to increase the frequency of possible launches.

Two double-wheel SNCF [French National Railroads]-type rail lines will link the two areas, which will be 950 meters apart. Dollies set on those tracks, the tracks being 15 meters apart, will support a platform on which the rocket, placed vertically, can be transported from the preparation buildings to the launching pad. After having been released from the dollies and attached to a concrete mass, that platform will remain under the rocket at launch time. ELAA-2 [as published] will use the same Ergol storage tanks as ELA-1; they are located 500 meters from the new unit's launch mast.

More than 300 people are currently working at the ELA-2 worksite, which started up in July 1981. The facilities should be finished by the end of next year. By that time, 25,000 cubic meters of concrete, 7,000 tons of iron and steel structure and 40 km of stainless steel piping will have been used. 1984 will be devoted to the assembly of control equipment and tests. Firms from all European countries as well as several local PME's [small- and medium-sized enterprises] and artisans are taking part in this work.

The CSG, run by CNES (National Center for Space Studies) has almost unlimited capacity for expansion, since it has been allocated 90,000 hectares of land located along 40 km of coast around Kourou by the French Government.

Although for the moment ELA-2 is the only expansion under way, others will follow according to how the European Space Agency's program develops. Thus, a third launch unit, ELA-3, might come into being around 1988. It would be located 2 km from ELA-2 and would use the same preparation area as the latter. ELA-3 would be intended to accommodate the Ariane-5 version of the European launcher, the development of which should be decided on in 1984. An area has even been reserved on CSG land for building a runway meant for a possible European shuttle.

At CSG 700 persons are currently employed over and above the teams sent from Europe for each launch. That number should be increasing by 100-150 salaried employees within the next 2 or 3 years.

This expansion means a housing crisis. A 140-unit housing program will be starting at the end of this year, but, according to a CNES study, CSG expansions and secondary activities thereby brought to Kourou translate into a need for 600 housing units by the end of 1985.

The expansion of the CSG--the largest employer in French Guiana--is being very carefully followed, one suspects, by the people who live in the town of Kourou, the population of which has increased from 700 at the time of the center's installation at the end of the 1960's to more than 7,000 today.

9631

CSO: 3219/4

PREFECT SILBERZAHN DISCUSSES IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 15 Sep 82 p 1

[Second of three interviews with prefect Claude Silberzahn; date and place not given]

[Text] This morning, LA PRESSE DE GUYANE is publishing an interview with the regional prefect [Mr Claude Silberzahn] regarding the issue of immigration to French Guiana.

Mr Silberzahn says that a policy based on two main lines is going to be established: "In the first place, instituting a 'pause' in entries into French Guiana by 'tightening' our borders to the utmost...In the second place, 'assimilating the foreigners already living in French Guiana.'" This is a policy that will not be accomplished without a vast amount of consultation. To that end, a working group should be meeting soon.

A previous interview, which appeared in our columns 2 weeks ago, was concerned with the establishment of new institutions. A third segment will be devoted to social issues.

[Question] In French Guiana one is used to hearing people say that behind the whole problem of economic development is the as yet unsolved problem of illegal immigration, especially Haitian immigration.

Does the government intend to sort out that problem and how?

[Answer] I would first like to point out that to be properly understood, the immigration problem must be understood in its totality. Let me explain.

First of all, there is an underlying human problem: quite simply, foreigners come to French Guiana because life is better here than in their country. They leave their country to try and acquire human dignity here that is denied to them there.

Why French Guiana? Very simply because it is meeting a need. I would point out that there have been two waves of immigration to French Guiana. There

was one in response to the search for gold at the beginning of this century and which attracted people from the Lesser Antilles--the sister islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe and St Lucia. And then there is the immigration underway today--relatively recent, at least in terms of its being extensive--that involves Brazilians and, most of all, Haitians. This second wave, it must be noted, corresponds to a higher degree of material well-being for the French Guianese. Over the years fewer and fewer French Guianese have found it necessary to be engaged in occupations considered to be unattractive, while, at the same time, an economic takeoff was occurring due to the need to expand infrastructure and construction and to an expansion of the means of production.

[Question] Many figures float around concerning the number of foreigners in French Guiana. Do official ones exist?

[Answer] Yes, and they are the only ones that I can state, but I am not claiming for that reason that they reflect the actual situation with complete accuracy. The figures according to the March 1982 census are:

Haitians*	5,500
Brazilians	3,400
Others**	10,200

[Question] Let's go back over the problems presented by these foreigners being here. What kind of problems are they?

[Answer] First of all, there is the problem of their cost to the community. Foreigners make up:

- around 10 percent of the children in primary school;
- about 25 percent of the families receiving state family benefits;

and they account for:

- a large part of the medical and child care expenditures in the DDASS [Departmental Social Services Assistance Bureau?] budget, probably on the order of Fr 30 million every year.

One must add the costs that cannot be put in monetary terms:

- The cost of their housing cannot be put into figures since the housing of immigrants poses a problem that for the time being has not, unfortunately, been resolved. But it has been possible to estimate that just developing building sites and connecting up services needed for housing for the foreigners currently here in our department would require Fr 15 million in funding each year for 10 years.

*This figure includes only persons born in Haiti and excludes their children born in French Guiana.

**From St Lucia, Suriname, Southeast Asia,...

--There is the cost of crime: the crime rate is higher for foreigners than for the rest of the population, and that is not unusual considering their living conditions. In prison there are as many foreigners as there are Frenchmen, whereas the former represent only 25 percent of the population. But we ought to bring things back to their true perspective: there were 67 foreigners put on trial for crimes in 1981.

Of course, even that is too many! But we are not in the critical situation that ever since I arrived people have been telling me we are in.

But there are many other costs for which figures cannot be given. Some more important ones, which, however, are felt less keenly for the moment, are:

--the impact on French Guianese society of such a sizable cultural, social and economic minority;

--employers, social groups, and individuals being "dragged" toward immorality as they underpay a labor force that most of the time is not unionized and has no protection; and,

--the resurgence of disease coming in from outside the country because of the poor state of health of the new arrivals: yellow fever, tuberculosis, venereal diseases.

[Question] But in contrast to those costs, aren't there "returns," if I might venture to put it that way?

[Answer] Of course. And let me say first of all that that is true for any immigrant population, wherever it is.

Foreign workers offer their labor during the active period of their working lives. That labor did not cost society anything during the first nonworking stage of their lives--youth--and will not cost society anything during the second one--old age.

That is a substantial "gain" for the host country.

[Question] Besides, I think that certain sectors can only expand only thanks to the contribution of immigrant labor.

[Answer] Nearly all of the wage-earners in agriculture, considerably more than half of them in forestry and the vast majority of workers in construction, fishing and personal service employment are foreigners. Take away the foreigners tomorrow and French Guiana's economy would collapse.

[Question] All in all, there are costs and there are returns. And the more progress is made, the more one perceives the complexity of the issue. In that case, must a "laissez-faire" policy be adopted?

[Answer] Certainly not! We must attempt to devise a policy based on two main lines:

--In the first place, instituting a "pause" in entries into French Guiana. "Tightening" our borders to the utmost for a while. We will need some extra means of a legal and material nature for that. We will need as well the energetic assistance of Brazil and, most of all, Suriname.

--Then, "assimilating" the foreigners already living in French Guiana, systematically expelling the few elements taking part in criminal activity and by regularizing the work and residence status of all the others. And by tackling the resolution of all the problems of fitting them into the social, intellectual and material fabric of French Guianese society.

[Question] That's a huge agenda!

[Answer] Of course. It calls for clear awareness and just as clear a determination. And for close consultation among all parties concerned:

--representatives of the state responsible before the law for border control and for controlling the situation of foreigners living in the department;

--elected representatives, because an important part of French Guiana's economic and social destiny depends on them;

--people involved in the relevant occupational sectors of society, employers of immigrant workers; and,

--people who, for moral or humanitarian reasons, feel responsibility for a problem that often is clearly one of poverty.

That is why we are going to set up a working group to establish the terms of immigration policy and elicit the help of all those parties I have just mentioned. The group will have to hear from representatives of the foreign communities. And it will have to work with regard for French Guiana's future and the future evolution of French Guianese society and in our country's traditional spirit of openness and generosity.

9631

CSO: 3219/4

FOREIGN TRADE WITH FRG DESCRIBED

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA in Spanish 20 Sep 82 p 4

/Text/ Our country is reported to be Germany's second largest trading partner in Central America.

Trade between Guatemala and the Federal Republic of Germany is traditionally intense. Guatemala is Germany's second largest trading partner in Central America after El Salvador and the largest purchaser of German goods. Of Guatemala's five major trading partners, with which the country carries on 60 percent of its foreign trade operations, only El Salvador and Germany do not show a large deficit for Guatemala; to the contrary, in the past, Guatemala always showed large surpluses in its trade with Germany, which in the last 5 years has reached a value of 250 million quetzals.

In 1981, the volume of foreign trade reached a value of 208 million, with a balance slightly in Germany's favor of 8 million quetzals. Germany, therefore, is Guatemala's third largest trading partner after the United States and El Salvador.

The products that Germany buys the most of from Guatemala are coffee, cotton, and tropical fruits. In 1981, coffee accounted for 66 percent of Guatemalan sales to Germany with 311 million sacks. In 1981, Guatemala was the sixth largest coffee supplier to Germany, accounting for 4.16 percent of Germany's coffee imports, which had a value of US\$43 million and made up 18 percent of Guatemala's coffee exports. Germany was the second largest buyer of Guatemalan coffee during the 1981-1982 growing season.

Non-traditional products of Guatemala that registered large sales to Germany were bee honey, with sales of 2.6 million quetzals, tropical fruits, with sales of 2.3 million quetzals, and cardomom, with sales of 0.7 million quetzals in 1981.

Goods that Guatemala purchased from Germany in 1981 had a value of 108 million quetzals. The most important products were chemical products and production materials, hardware, optical and precision instruments, automobiles, electro-technical products, pharmaceuticals, and machinery in general.

During the first semester of 1982, trade with Germany showed a sharp decline from the 1981 figures. The volume decreased by almost 30 percent, from 88 million to 70 million quetzals. Guatemala's surplus decreased to less than half of what it was, from 13.5 million in 1981 to 5 million in 1982.

With regard to the decline in Guatemalan purchases from Germany, which amounted to almost 10 million quetzals during the first semester, this is due primarily to the problems that the country and importers had with foreign exchange. We are especially concerned about the decline of Guatemalan exports to Germany, which dropped over 18 million quetzals during the first semester of 1982.

With the most important export products in terms of sales to Germany, such as coffee and cotton, factors that cannot be controlled by the two countries come into play. Guatemala needs to make a greater effort to launch its non-traditional export products on the German market, not only to offset the losses sustained in nickel ore exports, but rather for the express purpose of offsetting the recession of the Central American purchasing market for its industrial products.

This is why this chamber has made a special effort to promote non-traditional Guatemalan products in Germany and has tried to convince Guatemalan businessmen to participate in trade shows for several product lines in Germany and present their products, which have shown themselves to be well-made and have made sales in amounts that have been of considerable aid to the country's balance of trade. In close cooperation with the German government and GUATEXPRO and within the framework of its support programs for developing countries, the chamber will continue to give financial support to these activities in 1982 by planning diverse sales promotion activities for Guatemalan products in Germany for the 1983.

9983

CSO: 3248/52

STATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SERRANO ELIAS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Guatemala PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Sep 82 p 2

/Text/ Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias, who will be the president of the State Council, stated last night to PRENSA LIBRE that he will not have a work schedule, since it is urgent to work with the executive branch to find solutions for the problems of unemployment, to achieve economic recovery, and to get the country out of its current financial crisis.

Mr. Serrano professes to be an active Protestant Christian affiliated with the Elim Church. At the moment, he does not belong to any political party, even though he was at one time affiliated with the PNR /Reformist National Party/, because he felt that it was an alternative to the nation's problems, but it was not the right one.

He showed that the State Council will be an advisory body in which all Guatemalans will be able to express their views. The representatives will formulate a criterion on the problems, and after their thoughts have been unified, the possible solution will be presented to the executive branch.

In case there is no conformity of ideas, two or three options will be presented to the president so as to channel the progress currently being made by General Rios Montt.

Economic Problems

When referring to the economic problems confronting Guatemala, Mr Serrano Elias emphasized that he was exceedingly worried about the worsening unemployment situation in the country.

"I am aware that 2 out of every 10 Guatemalans are out of work, and that 70,000 new jobs must be created each year to accomodate the economically active population.

"This situation cannot be remedied by the state alone. Economic recovery is needed in production, industry, agriculture, etc. That is to say, all sectors of the economy must join forces in an effort to end the crisis that has left the Guatemalan people hard hit.

"If we do not deal with this problem, we will not have confidence and peace of mind. For this reason, I feel that the State Council must begin a dialog with private enterprise to find the right way to achieve economic recovery."

The Financial Crisis

With regard to the financial crisis, Serrano stated that an important meeting is being held now in Toronto, Canada, where the International Monetary Fund /IMF/ is discussing the problem, and the specific problems of the isthmus countries are being included.

"I feel that the talks being held by the IMF will change the picture for Guatemala. In any case, I presently do not know the guidelines being followed by the authorities involved, but I believe that we must support private enterprise to get out of the crisis."

Subversion

In another part of his statements, the future president of the Council indicated that subversion tries to introduce exotic ideas into the country, but that the way to avoid the advance of insurgency is by putting new means of redistribution into action.

"In my opinion, the guerrilla problem is by and large transitory. If subversion attacks in a warlike way, I do not feel there is any other way to respond. The government has to act in the same way to give stability and tranquillity to our communities."

On the New Electoral Law

Another issue that Mr Serrano focused on was that of the political reactivation that will take place in the future, which will return constitutional rule to Guatemala. The Council is reported to be preparing a bill for the election of the new constituent assembly.

He pointed out that today, the parties claim to have over 50,000 affiliates, "but I feel that those signatures are tacit; that is to say, they are not real. It is my view that, in the future, there will be an open electoral process in which all political forces in the country will take part. They are represented in the current political parties and outside of those parties also."

The voters should be the ones to sanction the representation of the participants. In this manner, the conservative sectors who have not participated will be able to participate. Social democrats, as well as socialists and democrats in the true sense of the word, will also be able to participate.

At the present time, these sectors do not participate because political groups are closed, impenetrable. For example, the people can take note of the fact that those parties are united today, and this was possible because there is not much difference between them.

Lastly, Mr Serrano stated that he is a Christian and has faith in the Almighty. He nevertheless feels that he was appointed to work with the state, and therefore, his work within the Council will be that of a statesman.

Who is Mr Serrano?

Mr Serrano is the son of Jorge Adan Serrano and Rosa Elias de Serrano. He was born on April 26, 1945 and is married to Magna Bianchi de Serrano, with whom he has five children.

He is an industrial engineer, a graduate of USAC, and a professor of physics and mathematics. He studied economic development in Stockholm, obtained the degree of Master of Education at Stanford, California, and has a wide academic and professional background.

9983

CSO: 3248/52

COUNTRY TO RECEIVE 100 MILLION LOAN FROM IMF

Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA in Spanish 21 Sep 82 p 3

/Text/ The president of the Bank of Guatemala announced the granting of a 100 million loan.

The Bank of Guatemala will have an additional 100 million dollars at its disposal during the final quarter of the current year, which will allow the bank to double foreign exchange authorizations starting on October 1, and thus help liquidate the trade sector's foreign debts, the so-called "dike".

This was announced by Jorge Gonzalez del Valle, president of the Bank of Guatemala, when reporting on his participation in the recent meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), held last week in Toronto, Canada.

Initially, this official, who is a governor representing Guatemala in the IMF, gave a general outline of the nature of meetings of this kind, emphasizing that in the one held in Toronto, the participants, especially those from the Third World, repeatedly brought up the worldwide economic recession, unemployment, the decline in international commerce, the plummeting prices of raw materials, and the need for the industrialized countries to reformulate their economic policies to reactivate the world economy. This would have to be done to make sure that a depression similar to or worse than the one that occurred during the 30's does not come about in 1983.

Mr Gonzalez del Valle added that, unfortunately, the IMF meeting made little headway. The most important achievement was the commitment made to increase the fund's resources in 1983. He pointed out that the nations of the Third World are requesting a 100 percent increase in the IMF's allotments, but it is up to the United States, whose vote is decisive.

He recalled that Brazil acted as spokesman for Latin America and Spain at the fund's meeting and that, because of a suggestion made by Guatemala, who represented Central America, it was highlighted that if the IMF's resources are increased, as is expected to happen, this organization should not implement overly monetaristic criteria in its programs of support for the Third World. The president of the Bank of Guatemala said that a policy of

monetary deflation would not be appropriate at this time and that the IMF should not insist on trying to influence governments in such a way that they avoid public spending, which is necessary for the economic recovery of the Third World.

Loans to Guatemala

Next, Mr Gonzalez del Valle announced that he took advantage of the IMF meeting to arrange for loans and central and private bank deposits amounting to a total of US\$100 million, which will permit the liquidation of the Guatemalan trade sectors' foreign debt, that is, to substantially alleviate the stress on the so-called "dike" so that the foreign exchange problem will be solved by 1983.

Guatemala obtained aid from Wells Fargo, an American bank from California, the Bank of the Republic of Colombia, the Federal Reserve Bank of Peru, and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, on favorable terms.

Those loans will go into effect on this 1 October, which will determine whether or not foreign exchange authorizations will be doubled without harming the country's level of monetary reserves.

When speaking on this matter and answering a question raised by a journalist, the president of the Bank of Guatemala explained that, as of the tenth of this month, reserves totalled 275 million quetzals, with the exception of gold. If the price of half a million ounces troy of gold is added to that amount, the gold being valued according to the latest pegged value of gold on the London market at a value of US\$220 million, the grand total of the monetary reserves is US\$495 million, which is sufficient to cover up to 4 months of imports.

Lastly, Mr Gonzalez del Valle expressed his confidence that the balance of payments, an important factor in the economic recovery of the country, will be straightened out in 1983.

9983

CSO: 3248/52

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT WARNS MEDIA--In a press conference held in his office, Colonel Ricardo Mendez Ruiz, minister of the interior, issued a press release containing a warning on political publications. The minister handed the journalists present the following release from the government: Due to the continual and reiterated publications that some of the communications media have carried out which contain political and sometimes biased material, the government hereby warns: 1) That as of today, all the televised, written, radio, and other communications media must scrupulously obey the provisions regarding abstaining from publishing information or news, or making political commentaries of a political nature. Therefore, in accordance with Article 112 of the Fundamental Government Statute, the activities of the political parties are hereby suspended. 2) That those guilty of noncompliance with said provisions will be subject to the measures applicable, which include self-censorship, preclusive censorship, official intervention, or immediate exclusion from the communications medium in question. /Text/ /Guatemala DIARIO DE CENTROAMERICA in Spanish 17 Sep 82 p 8/ 9983

CSO: 3248/52

MENDEZ ARCEO ON NICARAGUA TRIP; ANTI-NICARAGUA CAMPAIGN

Mendez Arceo, 'a Bridge'

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 13 Sep 82 pp 38-41

[Interview with Msr Sergio Mendez Arceo, bishop of Cuernavaca, by Carlos Fazio; time and place not given]

[Text] On returning from a trip to Nicaragua, with its discordant church-state relations, Msr Sergio Mendez Arceo told PROCESO that he considers himself a "bridge" between the Nicaraguan Catholic hierarchy and the Sandinist revolutionaries.

During the interview, the bishop of Cuernavaca said that the Nicaraguan Government had called it a "serious error" to prevent publication of John Paul II's letter to the bishops, that the archbishop of Managua, Miguel Obando, thinks that because he resisted Somoza he should resist Marxism-Leninism today before it becomes established, and that he is at least "unaware" that he appears to be aiding the counterrevolution.

[Question] What was the reason for your trip to Managua? What was your impression of the reception given you by the Sandinist government?

[Answer] I went to Nicaragua for the meeting of those planning the Fourth Oscar Arnulfo Romero Christian Solidarity with El Salvador Meeting, which I am in charge of along with my friend and brother in the episcopate, Leonidas Proano, bishop of Riobamba, Ecuador. I was greatly surprised to be met at the foot of the airplane's steps by Commander Daniel Ortega and Father D'Escoto. The event was broadcast on television to the Nicaraguans. Psychologically, for those who might wish to see the men ruling Nicaragua religiously isolated, it would have been better to do without that reception; but it is understandable that someone would publicly acknowledge the visit to his country of a friendly bishop, one faithful in Christian solidarity, when he is accused of persecuting the Church by the Church itself.

[Question] As in the case of Cuba, do you consider yourself a Bridge between the Church and the Nicaraguan Government?

[Answer] I've always considered myself a bridge in conflicts between the Catholic hierarchy and revolutionaries. Although perhaps that greeting by "compas" /comrades/ shook one of the foundation piers.

[Question] You talked with various people in the Nicaraguan Government and Church. Can you reveal what was said and what the outcome was?

[Answer] A certain amount of discretion is praiseworthy. I dealt with several Sandinist friends. I ate with Tomas Borge and talked to him several times. I took part in a profitable meeting at Miguel D'Escoto's house. I talked to Fernando and Ernesto Cardenal. I was present at a conversation between the German delegation, led by Gunter Grass, and Junta members Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez. I visited priests, monks, and nuns. Father Florian and the Capuchins on the Atlantic Coast. At the mission on the Atlantic Coast, I breakfasted with the bishop of Esteli, Ruben Lopez, after hunting all over for him. I talked with Teofilo Cabestrero of the Valdivieso Center. I met with Alvaro Arguello and Armando Lopez. I spent 20 minutes on the telephone with Bishop Barni, of Leon. Nuncio Andres Cordero Lanza of Montesezolo gave me a great deal of time after a busy day in which he returned from Honduras. Ambassador Augusto Gomez Villanueva invited me to lunch and enabled me to talk to his colleagues; and we covered the entire length of that beloved extension of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. I stayed at the home of Carlos Tamez, the Mexican, who works with the Ministry of Education. To conclude, the "compas", my driver--see if I drive there!--explained a lot of things to me; he was present at the squabble at the Salesian College in Managua.

[Question] Yes, but what did you talk about with all of them? What was the government's reaction to the Pope's letter?

[Answer] I have subjected you to my answer, just as you are subjecting me to your questions. Now I'll answer you: The government expected other language after the last delegation went to Rome following the conflict stemming from the bishops' communique regarding the treatment of the Miskitos. At the different stages of the deterioration of relations with the bishops, the Sandinist Front always went to the nuncio or to the Vatican itself. As a result, the government, which was astounded, ordered that John Paul II's letter not be published before thinking it over. In my talks with them, I repeated that in a struggle between the hierarchy and the government the people are the losers, the only ones confused. And they recognized that withholding the Pope's letter was a serious error. I am not justifying or explaining without reason. The country's legitimate government is clearly surrounded by the U.S. imperialists and resents unilateral statements easily taken advantage of by its enemy. That third delegation to Rome had been very well received, and the Holy See had shown understanding. Such a response was not expected at first sight, one that, giving unconditional support to the bishops, can be interpreted as opposition to the government. A few days earlier, the Nicaraguan churches had not rejected the Reagan administration's cynical attempt to equate them with private enterprise in order to give both of them \$5.5 million to support "defense of their liberties." Reagan himself had dared to describe as "common" his and the Pope's concern about Central America.

Even so, the pointless, offensive censoring of the Pope's letter was a serious error. And, I repeat, the government acknowledges that. The embarrassing "Carballo case" (referring to the scandal, with sexual overtones, involving the spokesman for the archbishop of Managua and Monsignor Obando's close collaborator, Father Bismark Carballo) was poorly handled, offending the public. Laid before the Bishops Conference without publicity, it would have been a genuine service. That was followed by the taking of schools and the confrontations in Masaya and Monimbo. The Ministry of Education's position was vigorous and sensible. The responses by the Salesians and the Bishops were pompous; like tinder to give life to the fire of persecution.

[Question] Because of these last incidents, have all the avenues for understanding and dialog been closed? Or is there still a chance of negotiation?

[Answer] Bishop Barni and I agreed on the urgency of a sincere, explanatory dialog to eliminate hidden resentment. The men in government want that and attempted it. I have called for prayers that the government does not find, either subjectively or objectively, the doors closed, either in Nicaragua or in Rome. Moreover, I don't see why each issue has to require the entire weight of the Bishops Conference. Each diocese could deal with and smooth out the difficulties involved in any process, the newer the harder. Monsignor Barni and I discussed dialog and the need for it as the only avenue for building the unity recommended by the Pope. In that way, incidents could be kept in proportion, and each disagreement wouldn't have to be treated as if the world were at stake.

Today Archbishop Obando is the banner of the counterrevolution. Objectively, his positions coincide with those of the counterrevolution. But there are two possible interpretations: He is aware of that and is letting himself be used; or he has his own Christian Democratic plan and is carrying it out. Or both.

At least, appearances suggest a lack of awareness of the danger of counterrevolution. Monsignor Obando thinks that just as he resisted Somoza, he has to resist Marxism-Leninism today before it becomes established. We have to acknowledge the presence of elements of dogmatic Marxist indoctrination in printed matter and proclamations, contrary to the Sandinist Front's explicit commitments, as well as the ingenuousness of some Christians in equating, without qualification, what is Christian with what is specifically revolutionary.

Nobody in Nicaragua can honestly deny the bishop's right to exercise vigilance and the suitability of it. What becomes inexplicable and is considered aggressive is the exercise of that vigilance and authority as the single means of setting worries to rest. The bishop's most reasonable stances become suspicious if, for example, he published his weekly thoughts in the opposition newspaper. Does he have his own agenda? The hierarchy's political intent when it declared that the rebellion against the Somoza tyranny was just was surely not Sandinism.

[Question] How did Christians connected with the revolutionary process react to the Pope's letter?

[Answer] Let me refer you to the thoughts of a recently graduated lay theologian, Jose Arguello Lacayo, of the Valdivieso Center. He says, "Political and

ideological unity has broken in the Nicaraguan Church. That lack of unity already existed during the era of the dictatorship, but the common desire to overthrow the tyrant caused it to go unnoticed. Since the triumph of the Revolution, the conflicts among the Christians' different ideologies have become more obvious. In Nicaragua today there's a struggle between those who think that the choice in favor of the poor is simply a moral and religious choice, which does not involve a commitment to revolutionary political struggle, on the one hand, and, on the other, those who think, on the contrary, that the choice is not real unless linked with the historical forces that defend the interests of the poor. This is reflected in the way in which people live and interpret the faith. The Holy Scriptures as well as the Church's sacraments and dogma reveal different perspectives to those who have different ideological commitments. . . . The Holy Father says that the unity of the Church around the bishops is founded in Christ. . . . The bishop should unite his communities around Christ and not around himself and his own political ideology."

[Question] What do you think of CELAM's [Latin-American Bishops Council] in Nicaragua?

[Answer] I've said that the CELAM's interpretations of events in Nicaragua and its ecclesiological plans that it failed to have approved in Puebla play a decisive role in this conflict. But I prefer that thought be given to the extremism of a statement by its president, Lopez Trujillo, on 19 August 1982: "We note with deep concern the events that have taken place on an alarming scale recently in our brother country. There are reports of treacherous attacks and sinister offenses against clergy, and even of deaths of lay Catholics" (SERVICIO INFORMATIVO DE LA IGLESIA EN LATINOAMERICA [News Service of the Church in Latin America], Bulletin No. 156).

[Question] What do you think of Mexican foreign policy in the specific instance of Nicaragua? There are Mexicans--including a bishop--who are asking that our diplomatic stance be changed.

[Answer] To tell the truth, it's very hard for me not to applaud and encourage Mexico's policy at its best moment, when, at great political and economic expense, it supports the Sandinist government. Critically, of course. For Mexico as a country, Nicaragua is a place where its own struggle is taking place. There is an inevitable commonality to our destinies. The future of our Latin-American peoples is at stake today in Nicaragua.

Anti-Nicaragua Personalities

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 13 Sep 82 pp 40-41

[Article by Carlos Fazio]

[Text] Activity designed to destabilize Nicaragua, carried out through the CELAM (Latin-American Bishops Council) by its president, Colombian Bishop Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, has Mexico as one of its principal bases of operations.

Its local agent is Genaro Alamilla Arteaga, the bishop assisting Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada and present secretary general of the Mexican Episcopate. Under

Lopez Trujillo's urging, he even questions--and is seeking a change in--President Jose Lopez Portillo's foreign policy.

Accused of manipulation during the stages leading up to the Puebla meeting (1979) and of wanting to dismantle Medellin (the Second Conference of the Latin American Episcopate, 1968), Lopez Trujillo asserts that the Church is being infiltrated by Marxism, particularly in Central America. His objective is to prevent that region's conversion to Marxism. If Central America falls into the clutches of "communism," then the rest of the continent will follow. The enemies to defeat are the rank and file ecclesiastical communities, The Latin-American Conference of Religious People (CLAR), and the Theology of Liberation ("a bad combination of bad theology and bad sociology"), the chief agents of Marxist penetration, which he accuses of provoking the class struggle, a genuine "invention" of leftist intellectuals seeking to incite the people against their masters and promoting armed conflicts (!). Of course, that is not Catholic.

Lopez Trujillo is Pope John Paul II's basic source of information about Latin America. His direct connection with the Polish Pontiff--who shares with him the pastoral view of the Church's role; Colombia and Poland are the last two redoubts of Christianity (a Catholicism identified with the nation and tradition) remaining in a secular, pluralistic world--has come to trouble the Vatican bureaucracy, which cannot tolerate the bishop's bypassing the customary channels. Proof of his zeal in this effort to control communication about Latin America is this fact: In 1981, Lopez Trujillo made 26 trips to Rome, averaging one week per visit.

In this privileged position Lopez Trujillo has orchestrated a campaign against the Sandinist government since the very moment the revolution triumphed. The report by a CELAM mission in Central America early this year offers this view of Nicaragua: "growing totalitarianism and repression, conversion of the government to a Marxist-Leninist point of view, excessive militarization, alignment with Cuba and the Soviet bloc, headed toward Church-Sandinism confrontation, deviation from the teachings of the Church" (See PROCESO No 284).

The report was ultimately intended for Pope John Paul II. And Msr Genaro Alamilla put together the team of five bishops from the CELAM that drafted the report. The immediate result was a letter from the Pope to Nicaragua's bishops in which he tacitly condemns Christians who have joined the revolutionary process, accusing them of forming a so-called "people's Church," a synonym for "parallel teaching" (See PROCESO No 302).

Monsignor Alamilla, who achieved notoriety in Mexican Catholic circles as director of the "Movement for a Happy World," connected with businessmen and currently considered a member of the so-called "Tampico ecclesiastical mafia" (composed of Cardinal Corripio, Msr Arturo Szymanski, and the new bishop of Papantla, Lorenzo Cardenas Aregullin, the four former rectors of the Tampico Seminary), has maintained a policy of constant harassment of the Sandinist Revolution.

On returning from Nicaragua in February, following the CELAM mission, he made disrespectful references, during a speech, to Commander Daniel Ortega, Nicaraguan chief of state, who had greeted him personally (See PROCESO No 282). In a recent

commentary in the newspaper LA PRENSA (30 August 1982), Alamilla says of Nicaragua when remarking on the Pope's letter:

"Surely, when the Pope refers to 'well-known difficulties,' he has in mind all that mass of conditions and obstacles that a totalitarian, despotic Marxist-Leninist government creates as weapons to be used against the Church, whether defaming its legitimate pastors, preventing them from carrying out their prophetic mission, or provoking discord among them, the priests and the faithful. . . . However, because there is a reaction in favor of true liberation, which the government calls counterrevolution in order to persecute, torture, imprison, and murder, obviously a schism has been created between the people and their rulers, between army and people, between Sandinists and people, and an effort is being made to turn the people against their pastors."

On 1 September, in another commentary in LA PRENSA, Monsignor Alamilla asked for a change in Mexican foreign policy and the formation of "worthy international ties" to solve the country's problems, "for it seems absurd that we are flattering and flirting with the enemies of those who can work with us in halting the decline of our economy." With a banker's mentality, he asked for honorable dealings with the United States and called "flirting" with Nicaragua absurd. That same day, in his sixth report on the state of the nation, President Lopez Portillo said, "In good times, but also in bad times, we've stood beside our Nicaraguan brothers. Their government, supported by the people, has met its commitment to them; and we've done so, too, supporting them when we could and thus also meeting our commitment to ourselves. Today, when lack of understanding, blindness, and the unpunished arbitrary use of force are harrassing this small, self-sacrificing nation, Mexico is proud to be able to say correctly and rightfully: Nicaragua should solve its problems by itself; don't burden it further with economic pressure or threaten it with artificial armed intervention by artificial dissidents. There are reasonable, honorable alternatives. Leave them alone."

Alamilla is one of the Pope's informants. This brings to mind the fact that the priest Miguel Hidalgo was excommunicated by the bishop of Michoacan and declared a heretic by the School of Theology of the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico for "having risen up against his King and against his God." The God of colonial Christianity gave the king legitimacy; to rise up against the king was to deny God. Jose Maria Morelos, another priest, was also excommunicated and shot by the Spaniards as a demonstration of "the triumph of Christianity over the rebels rising up against their King and against their God." In the encyclical "Etsi Longissimo," of 30 January 1810, Pope Pius VII condemned the emancipation of the Latin-American countries. "And because one of its beautiful chief precepts is to prescribe submission by the higher authorities, we do not doubt that in the disturbances in those countries, which have been so bitter for our heart . . . you would easily attain (he says to the bishops) that sacred goal if each of you would demonstrate to your flock, with all the zeal you can muster, the terrible, extremely serious harm caused by rebellion, if he presented the shining, singular virtues of our Beloved son in Jesus Christ, your Catholic King" (Pedro Leturia, II, 113). On 24 September 1824, when practically all of Latin America had been liberated, the Pope said, in a new encyclical, "Etsi Iam Diu," "We have received the unfortunate news about the deplorable situation in which both the State and the Church have come to reduce the discord of rebellion" (Leturia, II, 241).

Ex cathedra infallibility and the Pope's advice in political matters fall of their own weight. The Supreme Pontiff, needed politically and economically by the king of Spain and in a Holy Alliance with such monarchies as the Austro-Hungarian one, opposed the insurrection for independence in the Spanish colonies in America. Meanwhile, the poor people did not believe that "the Holy Pope in Rome" was condemning them, thinking that the encyclicals were counterfeits by the Spaniards designed undermine their morale.

Misinformation of the Vatican led Pius XI, during the presidency of General Cardenas in Mexico, to say, "Meanwhile, we already have before our eyes the painful consequences of that propaganda (communist), there, where communism has succeeded in being affirmed and in taking over; and our thoughts now go out, with special paternal affection, to the people of Russia and Mexico. . . ." ("Divini Redemptoris," 1937).

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